

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are currently pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner has alleged that the application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct species, namely, Species I: Figure 4 and Species II: Figure 5. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's Species Election Requirement.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects Species II: Figure 5, in response to this Election Requirement.

Applicant respectfully submits that the following table represents which claims pertain to which species.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Claims</u>
I	1-4, 6-8, 11-22, 24-31, and 33-37
II	1-7, 9-23, 25-30, and 32-37

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4, 6-7, 11-22, 25-30, and 33-37 are generic. Upon allowance of any of these generic claims, Applicant notes that he is entitled to consideration of claims directed to Species I which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed claim as provided under 37 CFR §1.141.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has requested assistance in the determination of the subject matter of the claims. Applicant hereby provides the following quotations taken verbatim from the specification to aide the Examiner in understanding the claims.

From Paragraph [0021]:

“The interconnect device 26 provides a convenient and secure means for interconnecting electrical cables 24 below the floor panel 20 to electrical cables 24 in the passenger compartment above the floor panel 20. The interconnect device 26 has a cover 28, a bracket 30 and a gasket 32.”

From Paragraph [0023]:

“A plate 44 having opposite first and second ends 46, 48 extends from the bracket 30 through the opening 22 in the floor panel 20.”

“The plate 44 can be integral to the bracket 30, as shown in figures 2, 5, and 7.”

“Alternatively, as shown in figure 4, the plate 44 can be a discrete component separate from the bracket 30 that is attached to the portion 50 of the at least one peripheral edge 34 by a variety of means.”

From Paragraph [0024]:

“The plate 44 has at least one opening 52. The at least one opening 52 is configured and adapted to allow an electrical cable 24 to be attached to the plate 44 so that the plate 44 facilitates the interconnection of electrical cables 24 on opposite sides of the floor panel 20.”

From Paragraph [0025]:

“In a preferred embodiment, as shown in figure 4, a strap 56 is used to attach a cable 24 to the plate 44.”

From Paragraph [0027]:

“In an alternate preferred embodiment, the cables 24 are attached to the plate 44 by means of a connector 60.”

It should be appreciated that the scope of the claims is not to be construed as limited to the specific quotes from the specification indicated above. Rather, the claims are to be given their full scope and interpretation both literally and equivalently as allowed under law.

SPECIFICATION

Paragraph [0001] of the specification is amended herein to reflect the issued patent number for the patent application from which this divisional application depends. No new matter is added.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a complete Response has been submitted herein and that all of the requirements of the Office Action have been promptly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests prompt and favorable consideration of this patent application. If the Examiner believes that a personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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